(c) whether Government propose to reserve quota for these new units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Under the Textile and Garment Export Entitlement Distribution policies for the period 1994-95 allotments under Past Performance Entitlement System and Non-Quota-Exporters Entitlement System would be made on the basis of exports during the calendar year preceding the year immediately before the allotment year.

(b) As per information available with the Ministry of Textiles, a total of 194 approvals have been issued since 1991-92 for readymade garments and textile units under the 100 per cent Export Oriented Scheme.

(c) No such proposal is under Government's consideration.

Availability of cotton yarn and Central assistance to the weavers of Maharashtra & Gujarat

607. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to supply certain number of cotton yarn bales per month ot Gujarat and Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the said quantity of cotton yarn is proposed to be made available to the weavers of Gujarat and Maharashtra at present;

(c) whether the prices of cotton yarn colours and chemicals have registered unprecedented increase due to which the weavers are not in a position to purchase these items from open market without the central assistance;

(d) whether Government have taken any steps to provide Assistance to improve the conditions of the handicraft weavers in the State; and

(e) if so, the year-wise details of the assistance given by Government to weavers in Gujarat and Maharashtra during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) Government do not directly supply cotton yarn to the weavers in the country. A number of State agencies with financial assistance from Central Government are undertaking supply of cotton yarn to weavers of Gujarat and Maharashtra in addition to private sources of supply. The National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) is also supplementing the yarn supply operations of State Handloom Agencies.

(c) Trade of yarn, dyes and chemicals has been affected by the rise in prices in these commodities; but there are no reports of shortages of yarn and dyes and chemicals. Price of cotton yarn is stable for more than a year.

(d) A number of schemes like workshed-cum-housing scheme, Thrift Fund Scheme, Market Development Assistance, Janata Cloth Scheme and Project Package Scheme are in operation in these States. Weavers Service Centres located at Ahmedabad, Bombay and Nagpur have been providing improved designs to weavers for increasing the marketability of their products. A scheme for supply of yarn at mill rate prices to handloom weavers of the country including those in Gujarat and Maharashtra is being implemented.

(e) Substantial assistance for implementation of various ongoing schemes for the development of the handlooms has been provided to the State of Gujarat and Maharashtra as under:

(Rupees in lakhs)

Year	Amount of assistance provided to	
	Gujarat	Maharashtra
1990-91	634.24	952.96
1991-92	141.84	1590.24
1992-93	174.03	872.56

Removal of cotton monopoly procurement

608. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) whether Government envisage to introduce liberalisation in agricultural sector too;

(b) whether any steps are proposed to be taken by Government to remove cotton monopoly precurement in view if the liberalisation;

(c) if so, deta ils thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Draft Agricultural Policy Resolution which has been prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture and placed in Rajya Sabha on 14th May, 1993 focusses an reforms in certain areas of the Agricultural Sector.

(b) to (d) The Government of Maharashtra had introduced a Scheme of Monopoly Procurement of Cotton in the State with effect from 1972-73. The Scheme helps in the promotion of the Cooperative spirit and eliminating middlemen to ensure remunerative prices to the growers by strengthening the cooperative network. The Scheme is reviewed and extended by the Govt. from time to time. It is currently effective upto 30th June, 1994.

Micro-Dimensional problems of textile workers

609. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) What are micro-dimensional problems faced by the textile workers all over the country state-wise during the last three years;

(b) What are the micro-dimensional difficulties faced by them in specific areas of each state;

(c) Whether these difficulties have been examined by Government so far;

(d) if so, the suggestions made by the representatives of the textile workers fo rectification; and

(e) the steps taken by Govt. in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) Some of the problems being faced by the textile workers all over the country relate to poor working conditions such as noise pollution in weavig sheds, poor lighting and ventilation, low wages, inadequate social welfare facilities etc. Additionally, the workers also suffer from health problems.

(c) Some of the above difficulties have been examined by the Govern-